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The Religious Education Association.

THE ST. LOUIS MEETING OF OFFICERS.

THE officers' meetings at St. Louis on September 22 were exceedingly interesting and useful. At the Breakfast, which was attended by forty-five persons, President Charles Cuthbert Hall presiding, the several executive officers of the Association made reports of the work done and to be done, and many others made brief speeches upon the object and methods of the Association. A meeting of the Board of Directors also was held, at which important matters were arranged.

THE NEXT CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN BOSTON.

The matter of widest interest, settled at St. Louis, was the place and time of holding the next annual Convention of the Association. A formal invitation to the Association had been extended by the Boston members to meet in that city, and this invitation was accepted by the Directors, so that Boston will be the meeting place of the third great Convention of the Association. The certainty that at Boston the best possible Convention can be brought to pass causes much enthusiasm in the preparation for this annual event.

The dates for the Convention are fixed for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, February 14, 15, and 16, 1905. Tremont Temple has been engaged for the three evening sessions of the Convention, and will be the headquarters of the Association during the meeting. Other churches and halls in the immediate vicinity will be at the disposal of the Convention for the Departmental Sessions.

THE PROGRAM OF THE CONVENTION.

The main theme of the Convention, with its subdivisions and the subjects of the several addresses, has been determined, and is here given:

THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

- I. TO BRING THE INDIVIDUAL INTO CONSCIOUS RELATION WITH GOD.
 1. The Direct Influence of God upon One's Life.
 2. The Bible as an Aid to Self-Discovery.
 3. The Church as a Factor in Personal Religious Development.
- II. TO DEVELOP IN THE INDIVIDUAL A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE.
 1. Literature as an Expression of Social Ideals.
 2. Science as a Teacher of Morality.
 3. The Ethical Education of Public Opinion.

III. TO QUICKEN IN THE INDIVIDUAL A SENSE OF NATIONAL AND UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD.

1. The Sacredness of Citizenship.
2. The Mission of Christianity to the World.
3. International Effort for Righteousness.

In addition to the three general sessions, there will be (as at Philadelphia) a Joint Session of Departments on Wednesday morning, with a most interesting and vital topic for discussion, "The Place of Formal Instruction in Religious and Moral Education." There will be addresses upon this subject as it relates to the Home, the Sunday School, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Public School, the Preparatory School, and the College.

The programs of the seventeen Departmental Sessions are being prepared and will be announced soon.

THE ST. LOUIS CONGRESS OF PRACTICAL RELIGION.

In the International Congress of Arts and Science, of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, one of the twenty-four departments was devoted to Practical Religion. The program furnished a three-hour session on this subject, with eminent speakers, for five days of the Congress week, and on Sunday two great sessions were held in Festival Hall. The themes of the papers and the persons who read them were as follows: (1) "Religion," President Henry Churchill King, Oberlin College; Professor Francis G. Peabody, Harvard University. (2) "General Religious Education," Professor George A. Coe, Northwestern University; Dr. Walter L. Hervey, examiner of the Board of Education of the Schools of Greater New York. (3) "Professional Religious Education," President Charles Cuthbert Hall, Union Theological Seminary; Dean Frank K. Sanders, Yale Divinity School. (4) "Religious Agencies," Dr. Washington Gladden, Columbus, O.; Dr. James M. Buckley, editor of *New York Christian Advocate*. (5) "Religious Work," Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins, rector of Holy Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, Philadelphia; Dr. Henry C. Mabie, corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Missionary Union. (6) "Personal Religious Influence," Rev. Hugh Black, Edinburgh, Scotland; Professor John E. McFadyen, Knox College, Toronto; Dr. Samuel A. Eliot, president of the American Unitarian Association; Dr. E. B. Pollard, Georgetown, Ky. (7) "Social Religious Influence," President Joseph Swain, Swarthmore College; Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, rabbi of Sinai Congregation, Chicago; Professor Edward C. Moore, Harvard University; Dr. Josiah Strong, president of the American Institute of Social Service, New York.

The Congress of Arts and Science, as a whole, was the most remarkable gathering of European and American scholars ever held, and will be a

memorable occasion in the history of education. The sessions of the Department of Practical Religion were not less interesting or less important than the sessions of other departments. The papers read were exceedingly strong and helpful. The great need, opportunity, and method of making education more religious and moral, and of making practical religion more scientific and effective, was set forth most ably by many leaders in this field of thought and action.

It is the purpose of the officials of the St. Louis Exposition to publish all of the addresses of the Congress in book form as soon as possible. It is expected, therefore, that the general public will have an opportunity to secure and benefit by the addresses given at the Congress.

THE COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

The Executive Board of the Association has been deliberate in its appointment of persons to membership in the Council of Religious Education. This department of the Association, as provided by the Constitution, will consist of sixty men engaged in scientific religious and moral education. At the time of the Philadelphia Convention but twenty-six members of the Council had been appointed; seven were added at that time, and subsequently sixteen have been added, so that forty-nine of the Councilors have now been elected. The officers of the Council are: Dean Frank K. Sanders, Yale University, president; Professor George A. Coe, Northwestern University, executive secretary; Dr. William B. Forbush, Boston, recording secretary. The additional members of the Executive Committee have still to be elected.

The Council had an important meeting at St. Louis on September 22, and has definitely taken up its very large and useful work in connection with the Association.

THE WORK OF THE LOCAL GUILDS.

As an illustration of what is being done by the Local Guilds of the Association already formed, a brief statement may be given of the work in progress by the Guilds at Evanston, Ill., and at Hyde Park, Chicago.

The Evanston Guild of the Religious Education Association is conducting two teacher-training courses with reference to Sunday-school work. One is entitled "Introduction to the Bible," and is conducted on successive Monday evenings through October, November, and December, by Professor D. A. Hayes, Garrett Biblical Institute. The other course is on "The Principles of Teaching," to be conducted on successive Monday evenings through January, February, and March, by Professor Walter D. Scott, Northwestern University. The courses are given in the hall of the

Young Men's Christian Association of the city. Definite lessons are to be studied in the pursuance of the course, and special reading done. No fees are required for attendance.

The Hyde Park Guild, in which the ten leading churches of the district are united, announces four series of lectures as follows: three lectures by Professor H. L. Willett, on "Old Testament Prophecy," to be given in November; three lectures by President W. R. Harper, on "The Work of the Old Testament Sages," to be given in January; three lectures by Professor Shailer Mathews, on "The Gospels," to be given in February and March; and three lectures by Professor Ernest D. Burton, on "The Pauline Writings," to be given in April. These popular lectures are to be given on Thursday evenings. Membership in the Guild at the fee of \$1 entitles one to admission to all the lectures. Single tickets are fixed at 25 cents each.

Besides these lecture courses, the Hyde Park Guild also provides two training classes to be conducted on Monday evenings from October to April, at one of the centrally located churches. The first course is on "The Application of the Principles of Pedagogy and Psychology to Sunday-School Teaching," conducted by Professor G. B. Smith. The text-book used in this course is the new work by Professor Coe, *Education in Religion and Morals*. The class consists of more than one hundred and twenty-five members. The second course is to be "An Introduction to the New Testament," conducted by Mr. Henry B. Sharman.

In both the Evanston and the Hyde Park Guilds the study courses have been affiliated with the Cook County Sunday-School Association, so that those who pursue these courses can upon examination at the end receive a certificate from the Cook County Association.

THE DEATH OF DR. SAMUEL IVES CURTISS.

Elsewhere in this issue a memorial article to Professor Samuel Ives Curtiss, late Professor of Old Testament Interpretation in the Chicago Theological Seminary, is published. Dr. Curtiss died in London on September 22 of cerebral hæmorrhage. He was on his way back to this country after a summer spent in arduous research in Palestine, and was in London arranging with his English publishers, Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton, for the printing of his researches.

Dr. Curtiss was one of the charter members of the Religious Education Association and was State Director for Illinois. He had been deeply interested in the inception and development of the movement, and had been active in promoting its work. His death is a severe and painful loss to this Association, to his Seminary, to the body of Old Testament scholars among whom he was prominent, and in many ways to the whole religious world.